MARVEL

VENOM ISLAND

PART II

22 LGY# 187

CATES - BAGLEY - OWENS - MARTIN

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DISGRACED REPORTER EDDIE BROCK STUMBLED UPON AN AGGRESSIVE ALIEN ORGANISM CALLED A SYMBIOTE DURING ONE OF THE LOWEST POINTS OF HIS LIFE. THE TWO WERE JOINED AND USED THEIR COMBINED LUST FOR VIOLENCE TO MAKE THEIR CITY SAFER AS THE LETHAL PROTECTOR...

VENOM

WEEKS AGO, A MASSIVE SYMBIOTE DRAGON CALLED **THE GRENDEL** ESCAPED GOVERNMENT CUSTODY AND WREAKED HAVOC ACROSS NEW YORK.

EDDIE BROCK, A.K.A. VENOM, WAS ABLE TO DEFEAT THE MONSTER, BUT A REMNANT OF IT WAS RECOVERED AND BONDED TO THE NEAR-DEAD FORM OF **CLETUS KASADY**, RESURRECTING HIS BLOODTHIRSTY SYMBIOTIC ALTER EGO **CARNAGE**.

EDDIE WAS ONLY ABLE TO STOP CARNAGE BY ABSORBING THE GRENDEL AND KILLING KASADY IN THE PROCESS. BUT BY CONSUMING THE GRENDEL, EDDIE AWAKENED **KNULL**–GOD OF THE ABYSS AND CREATOR OF THE SYMBIOTES–WHO IS NOW FREE AT THE PERIPHERY OF THE GALAXY AND HEADED FOR EARTH.

AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, IT SEEMS THAT NEITHER CARNAGE NOR THE GRENDEL IS AS DEAD AS EDDIE ONCE THOUGHT...

DONNY CATES WRITER MARK BAGLEY PENCILER ANDY OWENS INKER

FRANK MARTIN & ERICK ARCINIEGA COLOR ARTISTS VC's CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER

MARK BAGLEY, ANDY OWENS & JASON KEITH COVER ARTISTS

JOHN TYLER CHRISTOPHER [MARVELS X] VARIANT COVER ARTIST

DANNY KHAZEM ASSISTANT EDITOR DEVIN LEWIS EDITOR NICK LOWE EXECUTIVE EDITOR C.B. CEBULSKI EDITOR IN CHIEF

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THE STARS BLACK OUT ABOVE ME AS I RUN.

EVEN REMOVED FROM MY OTHER, I CAN FEEL HIS PRESENCE GROWING.

HE'S COMING. ***KNULL IS COMING.***

BUT BEFORE I CAN DO ANYTHING TO STOP IT...IF I EVEN CAN...

...I HAVE TO BURN THE DARKNESS OUT OF MY SHADOW.

MY OTHER HAS BEEN CORRUPTED BY THE SYMBIOTE THAT CLETUS KASADY WORE.

HIS MANIA...HIS ***EVIL*** STILL ALIVE INSIDE OF IT.

BUT SO IS MY OTHER.

INSIDE OF THAT THING. ATTACHED TO IT. KEEPING IT AT BAY.

DYING WITH THAT ***CARNAGE*** WRAPPED AROUND IT.

I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU.

I PROMISE.

A LIFETIME AGO, MY OTHER AND I LIVED ON THIS ISLAND FOR MONTHS. WE CREATED TUNNELS AND SAFE HOUSES FOR OURSELVES. DEFENSES IN CASE TROUBLE EVER CAME.

I KNOW *EVERY INCH* OF THIS LAND.

MEMORIES THAT MY OTHER *SHARES.*

IF THE CARNAGE SYMBIOTE KNEW THEM, I'D BE DEAD BY NOW.

WHICH MEANS MY OTHER IS PROTECTING ME...

PROTECTING ITS MIND FROM THE DARK ONE.

I CAN'T IMAGINE THE PAIN IT'S IN.

BUT I FORCE MYSELF TO ANYWAY.

HATE IS FUEL FOR WAR.

TNT

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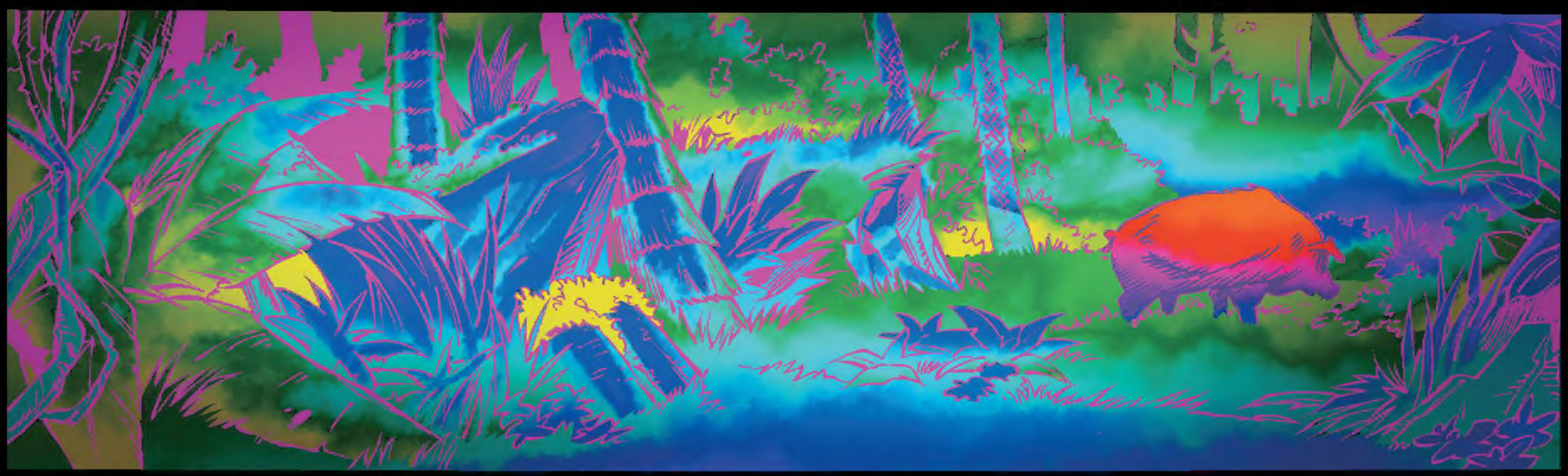

DYLAN.

WHY...

YOU KEPT IT, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU'RE KEEPING IT TRAPPED.

IN A CAGE.

DYLAN.

WHAT ARE YOU HIDING FROM ME?

SHOW ME.

NO! STOP IT!

LET GO!!!

SHOW ME.

SHOW ME.

SHOW ME.

SHOW ME.

DAD, PLEASE!!!

N-NO! STOP!

SHOW ME.

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NO!

W-WHAT...?

WHO IS THE KING IN BLACK?

I DON'T KNOW.

WHAT?

YOU KEPT SAYING IT. IN YOUR... DREAM.

I...DON'T KNOW, NORMIE.

OKAY, WELL... I'M GONNA GET BREAKFAST.

I'LL BE DOWN IN A MINUTE.

OKAY...

...WEIRDO.

I'M SORRY...

...I WON'T KEEP YOU IN A CAGE ANYMORE.

BEFORE THIS ISLAND WAS A MINING OPERATION, IT BRIEFLY SERVED AS A STRATEGIC ARMY BASE.

THE ISLAND WAS BOMBED ALL TO HELL, AND THE RESULTING MASS EVACUATION LEFT LOTS OF MILITARY SURPLUS BEHIND.

MOST OF IT IS UNUSABLE. GUNS OLD AND RUSTED. AMMO THAT'S PAST ITS PRIME.

THAT'S FINE BY ME.

FOR THE GAME I'M HUNTING...

...BULLETS WOULD ONLY PISS IT OFF.

WHEN MY OTHER AND I LIVED HERE, WE DISCOVERED MUCH ABOUT THE ATTACKS ON THIS PLACE.

IN PARTICULAR, WHY THE BOMBINGS TOOK THE BASE BY SURPRISE THE WAY THEY DID.

TURNS OUT THE ELECTRONIC MECHANISM TO ACTIVATE THE AIR RAID SIREN HAD FAILED SOMETIME BEFORE THE ATTACK.

AGH!

WWWAAAA

WHICH IS WHY WE BUILT A ***NEW ONE*** THE FIRST MONTH WE WERE HERE.

WAAAAAAA

WHAAAAAA

PREVIEW

THE PAIN MUST BE *EXCRUCIATING* FOR THEM.

WAAAG!

ONLY ONE PLACE WHERE THE DEVIL CAN'T HIDE IN THE DARK.

AND THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE ON THE ISLAND WHERE THE SIRENS DON'T RING.

REX

ONLY ONE PLACE WHERE THE PAIN STOPS.

HERE.

HEY! WATCH THIS.

OUCH

OOPS!!

WELL, JUST DAMN

THE WAR BEGINS *HERE.*

FLAMETHROWER IS OLD. NOT MUCH LEFT IN THE TANK.

COME ON!

THAT'S FINE. IT WAS ONLY TO MAKE A STATEMENT ANYWAY.

THIS ISLAND IS MINE.

THIS IS MY WAR.

AND WE FIGHT IT ON MY TERMS.

I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME OUT THERE...

...LET'S TALK.

IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT I WILL KILL EVERY LIVING THING ON THIS ISLAND TO GET TO YOU, YOU MUST NOT KNOW ME AS WELL AS YOU THINK YOU DO.

SO I'LL MAKE YOU A DEAL.

RELEASE MY OTHER.

GIVE ME BACK MY FRIEND... AND YOU CAN HAVE THIS PLACE.

NO ONE WILL EVER BOTHER YOU. NO ONE WILL KNOW YOU'RE HERE. YOU'LL BE FREE.

I'LL SEE TO IT.

AND IF NOT?

THEN WE ALL BURN TOGETHER.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

WE JUST GO OUR SEPARATE--

AGH!

SYMBIOTE... SNAKING THROUGH THE SAND!

DAMMIT, BROCK! SHOULD HAVE SEEN THAT COMING. **MOVE.** YOU NEED TO--

NO!

TAKING MY HAND! CAN *FEEL* IT DIGGING INTO ME. CAN'T... CAN'T GET FREE...

A DEAL? EDDIE...

IF YOU DON'T THINK THAT WE WILL TAKE YOU AND MAKE YOU WATCH, POWERLESS, THROUGH YOUR OWN EYES AS YOUR BODY SHUFFLES AND DANCES TO OUR SONG AS IT SLITS THE THROATS OF EVERY BABY ON EARTH...

...YOU REALLY HAVEN'T BEEN PAYING ATTENTION.

I'M SORRY. IF YOU CAN *HEAR* ME IN THERE... I'M SORRY.

BIG THREATS. BIG MAN.

YOU DON'T HAVE THE STONES, BROCK.

YOU WOULDN'T HURT YOUR PRECIOUS OTHER.

YOU KNOW WHAT?

YOU'RE RIGHT!

I'M COMING BACK FOR YOU.

I PROMISE.

RAGGHH!!

TO BE CONTINUED!

VENOM

#23

HEY, VENOMANIACS! WE'VE SURVIVED THE MAYHEM OF "ABSOLUTE CARNAGE" AND ARE RUNNING THROUGH THE JUNGLES OF "VENOM ISLAND"! THERE'S STILL SO MUCH MORE TO COME IN THE WORLD OF VENOM! LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF THE STORY SO FAR BY WRITING TO US AT SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM! BE SURE TO MARK YOUR LETTERS "OKAY TO PRINT"!

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BULLPEN BULL

STAN'S SOAPBOX
FEBRUARY 1980

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Bear with me, gang. It's philosophy time again! I was having a discussion the other day with a professor pal of mine from U.C.L.A. about the so-called "generation gap," and I laid a few personal opinions on him that I'd like to share with you.

First, we're never gonna solve the generation gap till we stop seeking the wrong answers to the wrong questions. Every one yaps about young people being "different" nowadays. Forget it! Human nature doesn't change. It's the human condition that changes—it's the environment! What's happened to us is, the *world* has been wildly changing, producing new sets of rules each time you blink your eye. It's the social climate that's been changing, not you 'n me, Bunky!

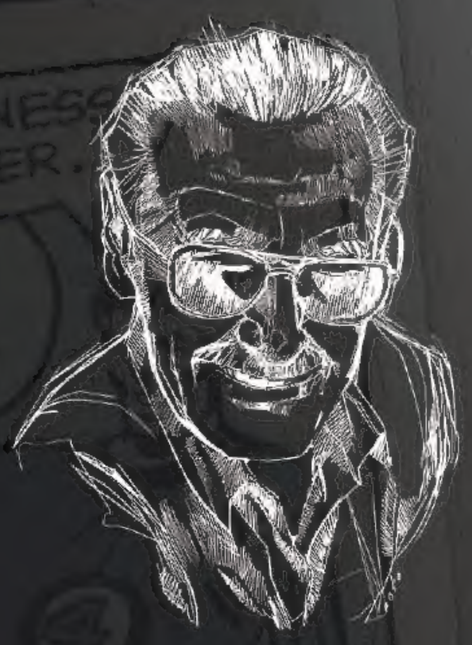
Here, this'll show what I mean. Say you've got two homes, a large country estate and a small city apartment. You play your stereo full blast on your estate, but who cares? No one can hear it. You're not disturbing anyone. But play it just as loud in your small apartment with the paper thin walls and your neighbors wanna clobber you! You haven't changed. You're the same yoyo in both places. But the conditions are different!

The fact is, young people are the same as ever, the same noisy, scroungy, mangy, nutty, wonderful crazies they've always been — and adults are still the same grouchy, grunchy, goopy, hard-pressed and harassed heroes *they've* always been —and which you'll soon become! Nothing's changed but the labels. Which leads to point #2 ——

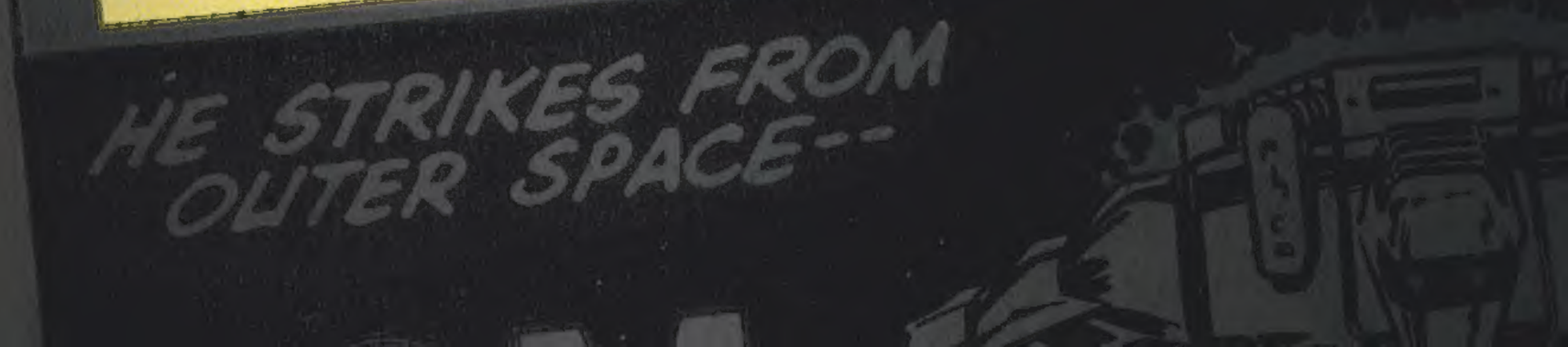
None of us is all that different from each other. We all want essentially the same things outta life — a measure of security, some fun, some romance, friendship, and the respect of our contemporaries. That goes for Indians, Chinese, Russians, Jews, Arabs, Catholics, Protestants, blacks, browns, whites, and green-skinned Hulks. So why don't we all stop wasting time hating the "other" guys. Just look in the mirror, mister — that other guy is you!

Excelsior!

Stan



STAN LEE
FOREVER



☐ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #60** — We're keeping the secret of this story under our hats, but it stars the Thing and the Impossible Man! 'Nuff said?

☐ **SHOGUN WARRIORS #13** — The Shoguns face the villainy of Doctor Demonicus!

☐ **SPIDER-WOMAN #23** — Spider Woman is caught in the master plan of the Gamesman!

☐ **ROM, SPACEKNIGHT #3** — The Coming of — FIREFALL!

☐ **MACHINE MAN #13** — Machine Man vs. The Mysterious Crime Lord, Kubik Khan.

☐ **SPIDER-MAN #201** — The Punisher Stalks Peter Parker!

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #242** — Cap caught up in the mind-bending plan of the Manipulator!

☐ **THOR #282** — Thor journeys to strange dimension to seek the lost eye of Odin!

☐ **MICRONAUTS #14** — Bug returns to his native planet, Kaliklak, and leads rebellion against his oldest foe, WARTSTAFF!

☐ **DR. STRANGE #39** — While Clea is pursued by Dormammu's wraiths, Strange goes to Paris and faces minions of Baron Mordo!

☐ **GHOST RIDER #41** — Robbed of memory, Johnny Blaze is unaware of the demon within him!

☐ **FUN & GAMES #8** — Puzzles, Games, Outrageous fun!

☐ **BATTLESTAR GALACTICA** — More adventures of the Galactic Scavenge World. Will Starbuck be stranded there forever?

☐ **HULK #244** — Hulk vs. Iron Man and Colossus in "It Lives!"

☐ **AVENGERS #192** — The Coming Inferno! He was born in the hottest blast furnace! And he lives to...

☐ **CONAN #107** — More savage adventure and sorcery action with the mightiest barbarian of all!

☐ **MARVEL TALES #112** — Reprints Amazing Spider-Man #135 with Spider-Man and the Punisher team-up and the Tarantula!

☐ **X-MEN #130** — Introducing DAZZLER! Soon to star in her own Marvel series!

☐ **POWERMAN AND IRON FIST** — Thunderbolt returns! Master Mold attacks! And just who is in Luke Cage's grave?!

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #2** — The return of Blastaar, the living...

☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #** — Spider-Man and the Beast versus the Modular Man and the...